



Cultural Minefields:

Training in the United States Military

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Introduction

- Cultural competence
 - Vital component of many missions in today's military.
 - Enables one to further a mission, save resources, and save lives.
- Understanding cultural heritage and protection of cultural property is part of cultural competence.
- Cultural property is the physical, social, and psychological components that define one's culture.





Introduction

- Cultural property and its protection is a matter of law, heritage, human rights, and tactical strategy.
- Yet, few formal studies have been done within the military.
- How well do military members currently understand cultural heritage?
- Would a cultural heritage training program be effective?





Goals

- Sought to
 - Assess current understanding of cultural property protection among senior military leaders.
 - Determine the effectiveness of a training aimed at increasing cultural property protection awareness, knowledge, and comfort within the military setting.





Design

- Pre-survey
 - 14 questions
 - Demographics, awareness, knowledge, and comfort with cultural property protection.
- Test read manual on cultural property protection
- Post-survey
 - 24 questions
 - Awareness, knowledge, and comfort with cultural property protection, as well as rating the manual itself.





Methods

- Awareness of cultural property.
 - value, laws, and procedures
- Knowledge examined know-how, such as how to beddown in a protected structure or communicate information about the structure.
 - Identify, avoid, minimize, recover, maximize beddown, and communicate
- Comfort assessed one's efficacy in executing, performing, and communicating cultural property protection.





Survey

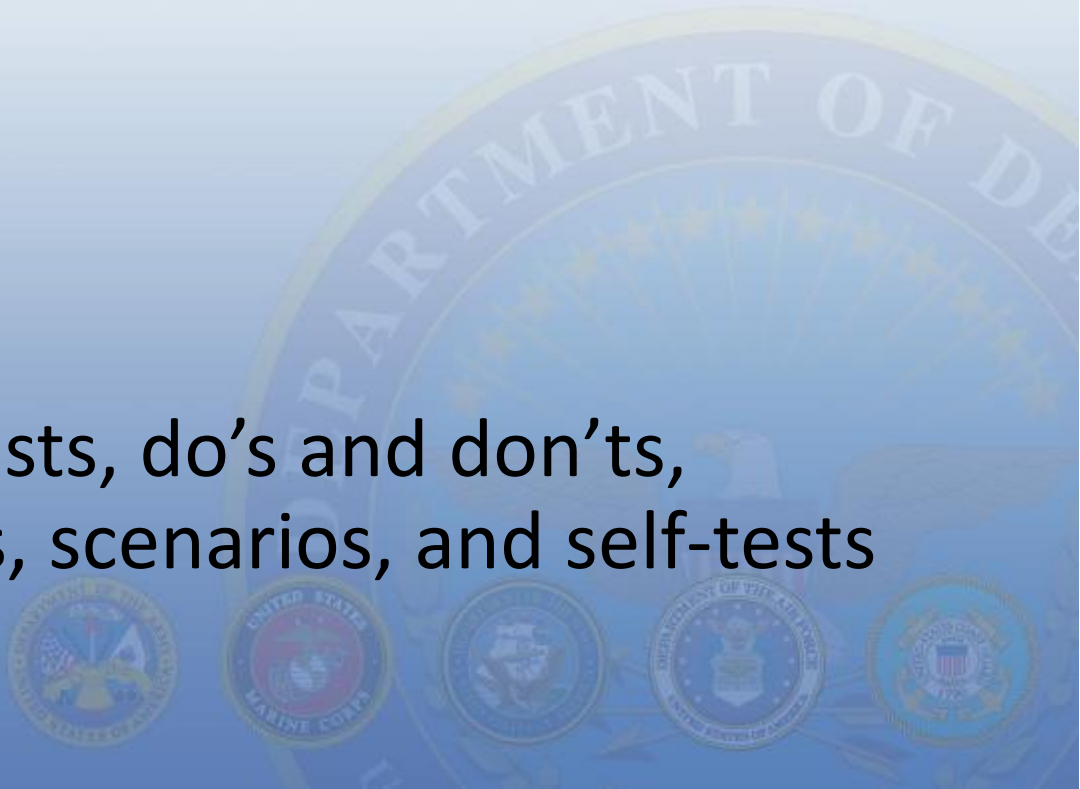
- The pre-training survey utilized a 1-5 rating scale.
- 1 represented no awareness, knowledge, or comfort, and 5 represented absolute awareness, knowledge, and comfort with different aspects of cultural property protection.
- Additional 1-5 rating scale questions on the usability of the training manual.
- Followed by opportunity for open-ended response.





Training Manual

- Developed by the Combatant Command Cultural Heritage Action Group
- Sections
 - Planning
 - Execution
 - Consolidation
 - Exit Transfer
- Inclusion of checklists, do's and don'ts, historical examples, scenarios, and self-tests
- 75 pages

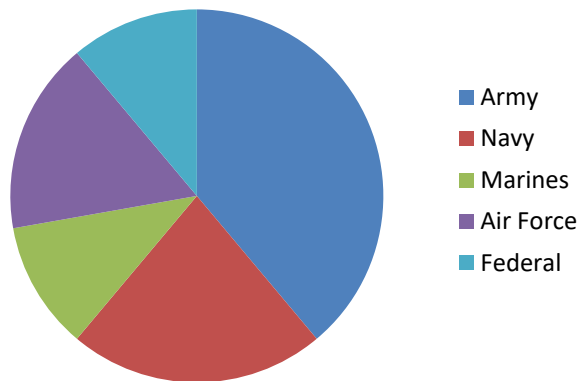




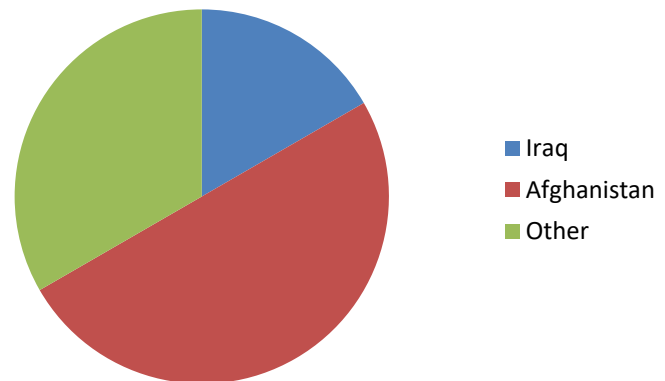
Results

- Demographics
 - 19 participants
 - Majority mid-level officer
 - 61% had deployed

Service Demographics



Deployment Locations





Results

- Awareness

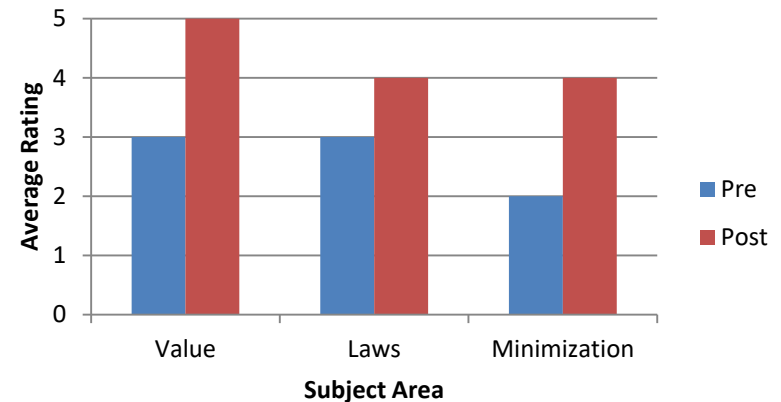
- Pre-Training

- Limited awareness on all measures by a majority of participants
 - Most aware of value

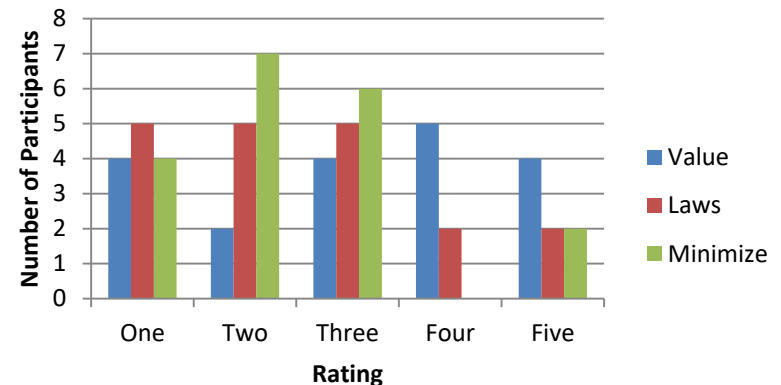
- Post-Training

- 100% aware/highly aware of value
 - 95% aware/highly aware of laws and minimization

Average Cultural Property Awareness



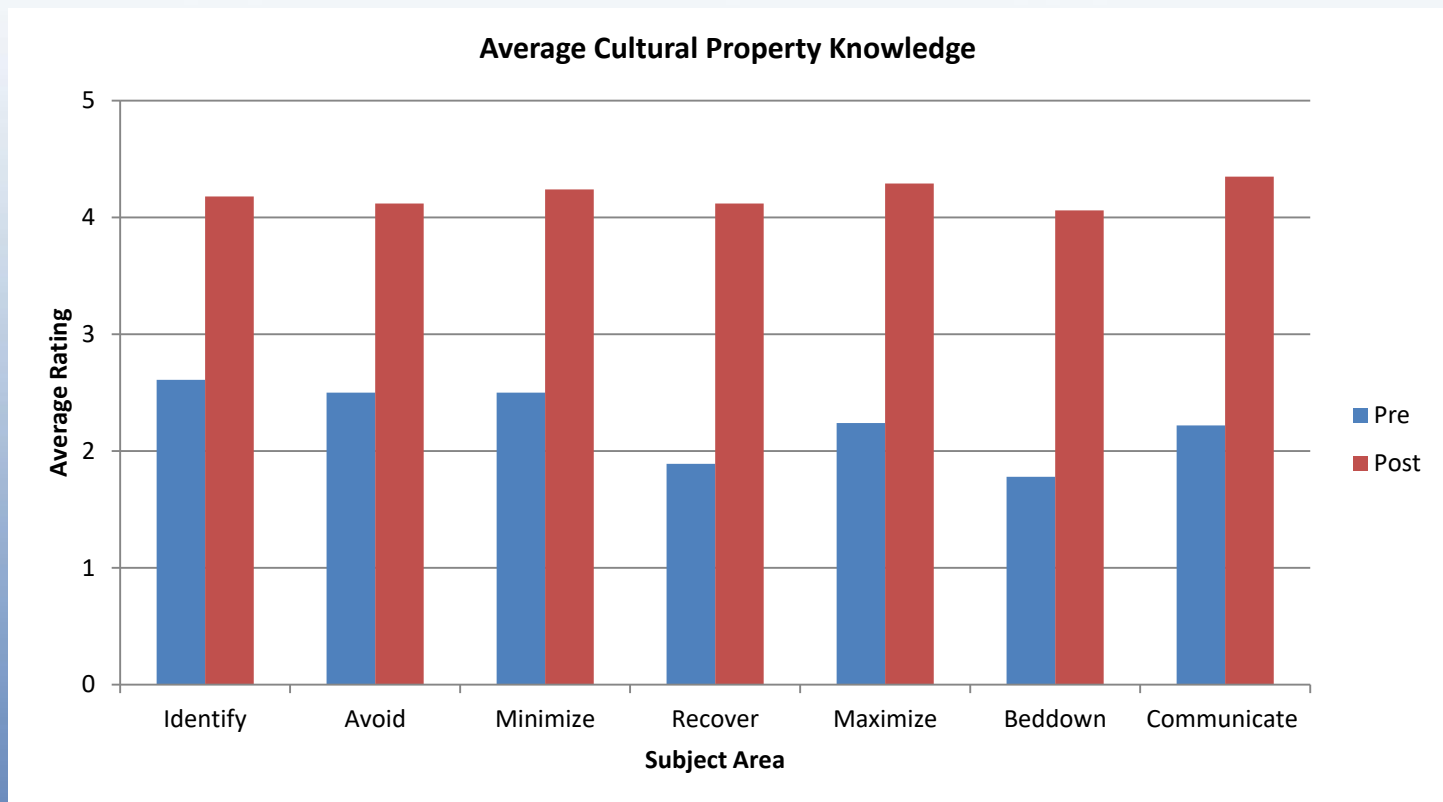
Histogram of Awareness Response Pre-Training





Results

- Knowledge

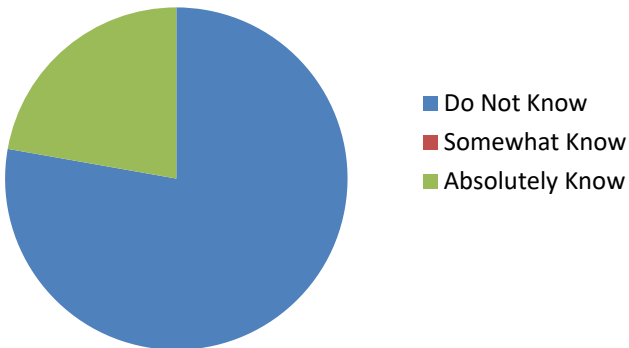




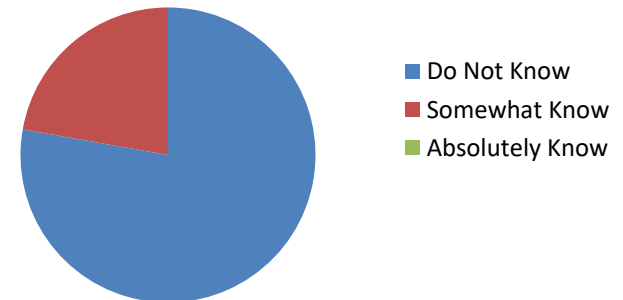
Results

- Knowledge
 - Domain differences pre-training
 - Bedding down and recovery were the least known by the majority of participants.

Know how to Recover Cultural Property



% Know how to Beddown with Cultural Property



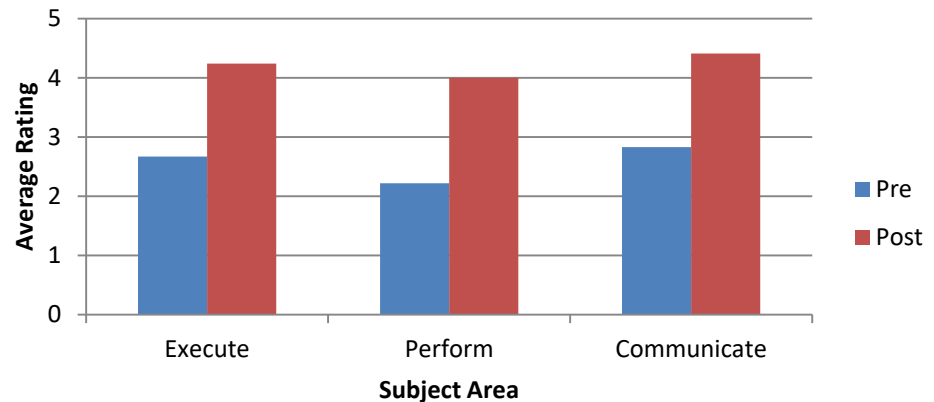
- Differences negligible post-training



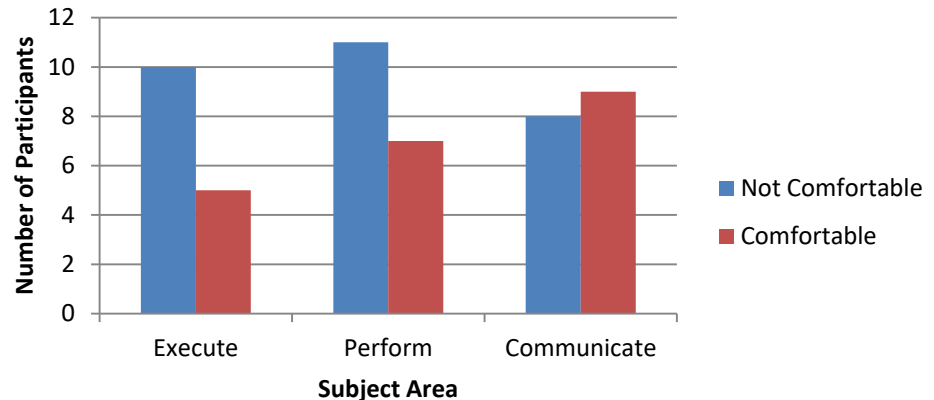
Results

- Comfort
 - Pre-training
 - Communicate had highest level of comfort
 - Performing had lowest level of comfort
 - 95% of participants were comfortable in all areas post-training

Average Cultural Property Comfort



Histogram of Average Comfort Ratings Pre-Training





Results

- Assessment of Manual
 - Average of 5 for all measures
 - Average “just right” format
 - 100% marked “yes”
 - Helpfulness of the manual to deployment (past and future)
 - Open-Ended Comments
 - Majority positive
 - Desire computerized format
 - Desire hard evidence (data)

Figure 9. General Open-Ended Comments

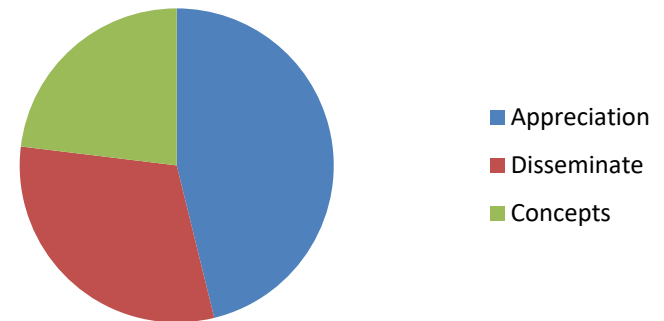
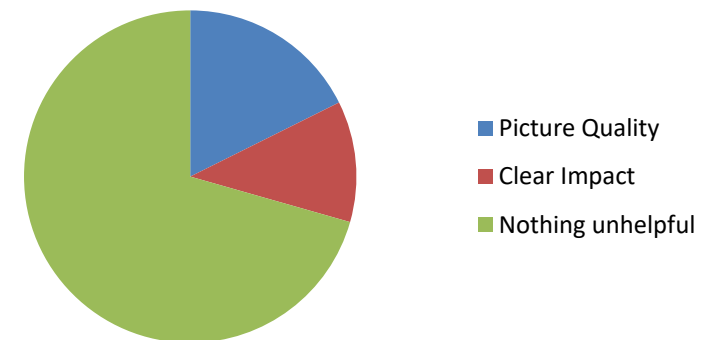


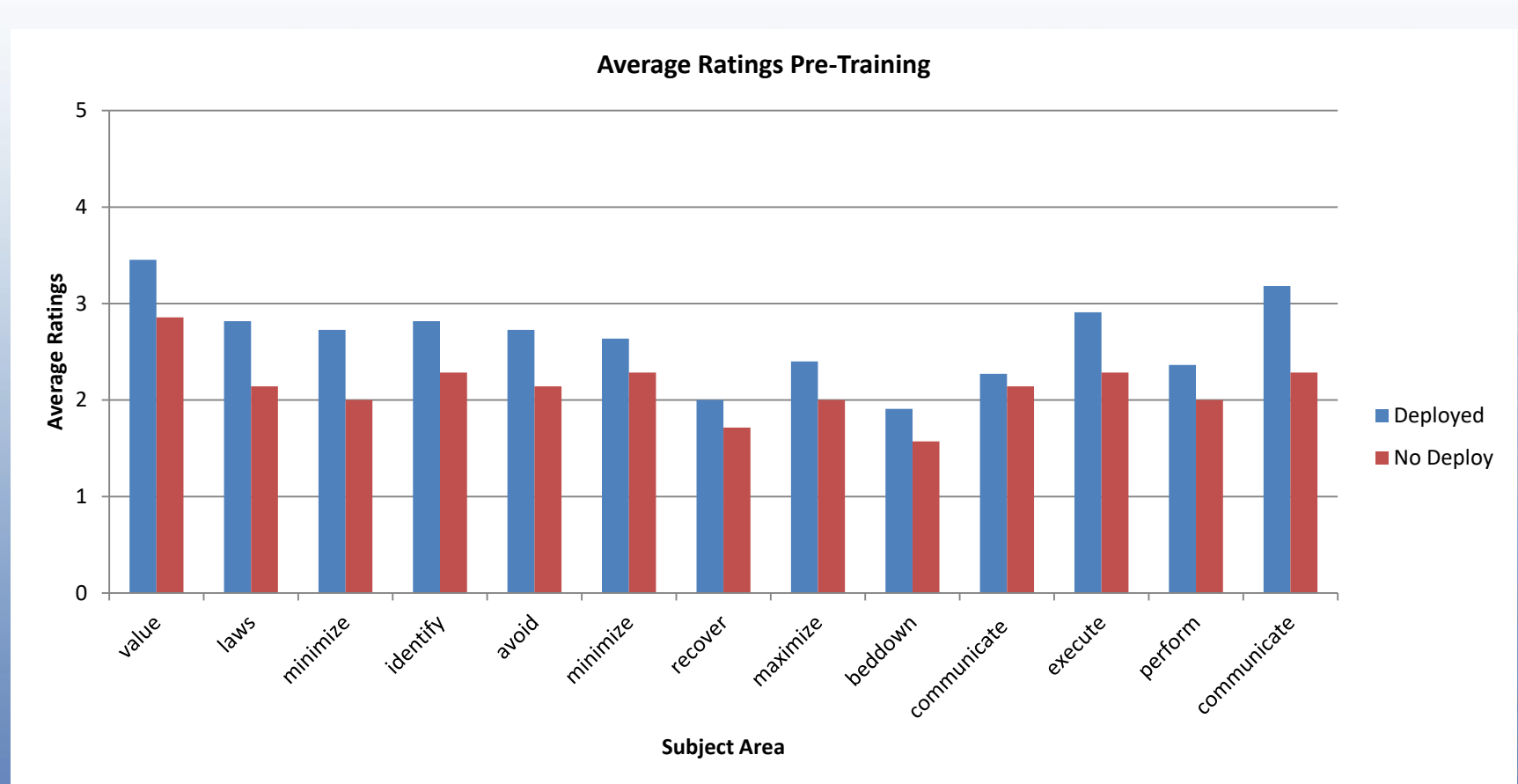
Figure 8. Least Helpful Aspect of the Manual





Discussion

- Does deployment experience influence results?

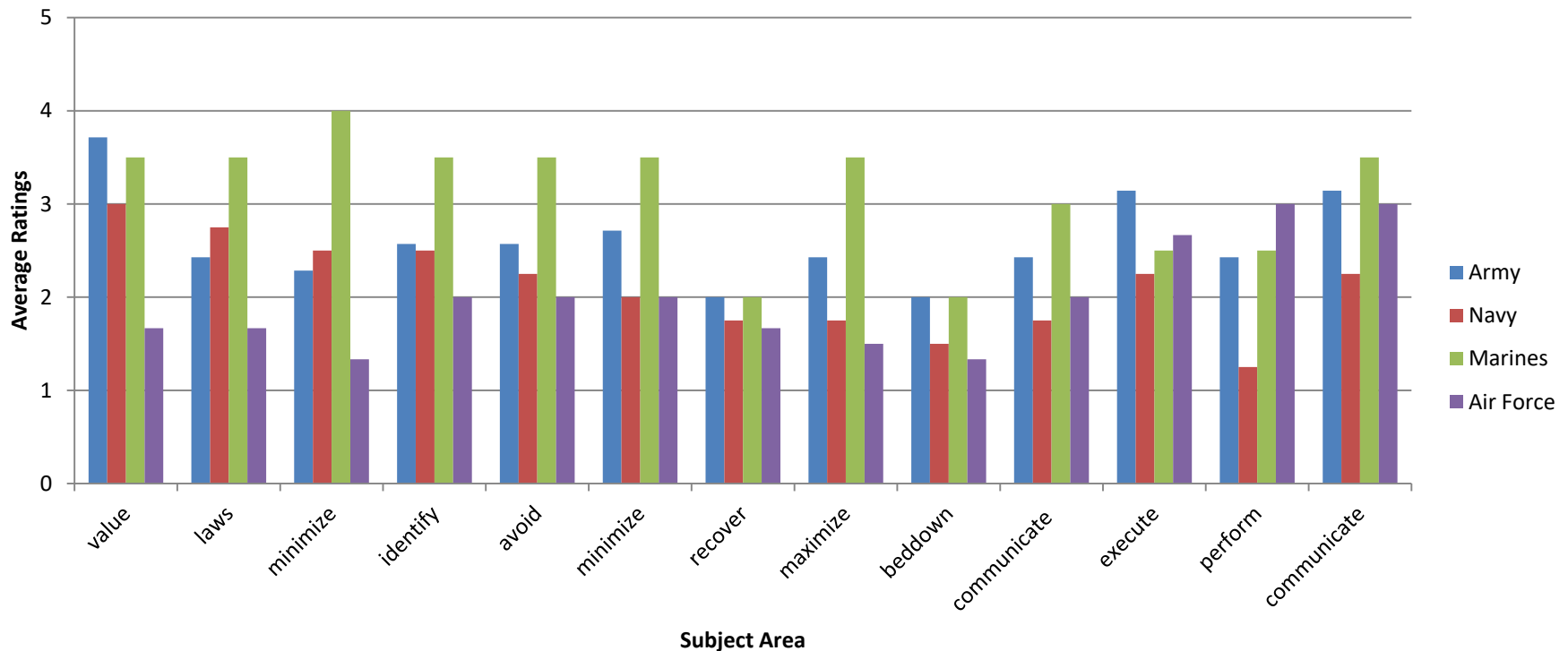




Discussion

- Does branch of service influence results?

Average Ratings Pre-Training





Summary

- Cultural property awareness and knowledge has room for improvement.
 - Somewhat aware of the value and less than somewhat aware of laws or protection.
 - Service members will be held accountable to the law, even if they do not know it.
 - Varied with deployment and service.
- Training increased awareness, knowledge, and comfort with engaging CPP for the vast majority of participants.
 - Participants overwhelmingly valued the training.



Conclusions

- Cultural heritage is vital to mission completion.
- Future studies should include objective assessment with self report.
- Creative and objective metrics are needed to determine the cost and impact in the field.
- Military members need this information.
- Computerized format and training at all levels is worth consideration.
- Cultural heritage matters and can be trained!



Questions?

